BRITISH COLUMBIA
The Best Place on Earth

BC Stats

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca

Issue: 07-32

August 10, 2007

- **Jobless rate falls to 4.1% in July**
- **Housing starts down 8.9% in July**
- **Room revenues flat in April**

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate fell to 4.1% (*seasonally adjusted*) in July.** The improvement in the jobless rate occurred because the province's labour force shrank 0.4%, more than offsetting the effect of a slight drop (-0.1%) in the number of jobs. Employment growth in the province has stalled in the summer months, with the total number of people working inching down in both June and July.

  The province's goods sector employed 2.4% fewer people in July. The manufacturing (-2.0%) and construction (-5.5%) industries both shed jobs. Employment edged down modestly (-0.2%) in forestry, fishing & mining, as a downturn in the resource industries continued.

  The service sector, which employs eight out of ten workers, boosted employment by 0.5%. Retail & wholesale trade (+3.0%) continued to surge ahead, and there were more job opportunities in industries such as management & administration (+3.4%) and professional, scientific & technical services (+2.7%). Transportation & warehousing (+1.5%), public administration (+1.5%) and finance, insurance & real estate (+1.4%) also took on more workers.

  There were 0.4% fewer jobs in the public sector, as both the education (-6.8%) and health & social service (-1.2%) industries pared down their workforce. Private sector employment inched up 0.2%. Full-time employment increased 1.4%, but there were 5.8% fewer people working in part-time jobs. Self-employment continued to decline, falling 0.8%.

  The unemployment rate for young workers aged 15 to 24 dropped to 6.8%, while the rate for older workers (aged 25 or more) was 3.6%.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Northeast (2.1%, *3-month moving average*) and Vancouver Island/Coast (3.9%) continued to experience very low unemployment rates, but workers in most other parts of the province also had a relatively easy time finding work.** Unemployment rates ranged from 4.2% in Mainland/Southwest to 4.8% in Cariboo, but the rate was considerably higher in North Coast/Nechako (7.7%).

  Victoria's unemployment rate edged up to 3.4%, while the rate in Vancouver was 4.3%. Vancouver Island's job market remains polarized, with residents of Victoria experiencing relatively little unemployment, while those living further north are not as fortunate. Nanaimo's unemployment rate was 6.3% last month. In the rest of the province, rates were lowest in Chilliwack (3.1%), Vernon (3.6%) and Dawson Creek (4.1%), and higher in Kamloops (4.7%), Prince George (5.1%) and Kelowna (6.3%).

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

  Unemployment rates for Northeast and some urban centres are estimated by BC Stats using data supplied by Statistics Canada

- **Canada's unemployment rate dropped to 6.0% (*seasonally adjusted*) in July, its lowest point since 1974.** Nationally, the number of jobs inched up just 0.1%, while the labour force was unchanged from June. Alberta (3.3%), which continued to record the lowest jobless rate in the country, saw employment grow another 0.7%, more than enough to absorb a 0.2% increase in its labour force. Unemployment

Report

British Columbia's Non-Permanent Resident Population

Did you know...

Out of more than 6,000 fires reported in 2003, 83% were detected by humans while only 5% were detected by alarm systems.

Data Source: Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (Office of the Fire Commissioner Annual Statistical Report 2001-2003)

rates were low throughout the west, with BC (4.1%), Manitoba (4.2%) and Saskatchewan (4.8%) all coming in below the national average. Newfoundland (13.6%) and PEI (10.5%) continued to experience double-digit unemployment. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

The Economy

- **Housing starts in BC were down sharply (-8.9%, *seasonally adjusted*) in July, joining a Canada-wide slowdown (-4.3%) in the number of housing starts.** Notable exceptions to the national trend were Ontario (+4.4%) and New Brunswick (+15.4%). The housing market in the red-hot Alberta economy appears to be losing some steam as a number of starts continued to slide (-3.9%). *Data Source: CMHC*

- **While many of BC's urban centres, including Victoria (+18.9%, *unadjusted*) and Chilliwack (+64.2%), have seen housing starts climb during the first seven months of the year, starts in all urban areas were down 4.4% from the same period of 2006.** This was primarily driven by slowdowns in both in Vancouver (-10.4%) and Kelowna (-21.3%). Vancouver alone accounts for nearly 60% of total starts in urban BC. *Data Source: CMHC*

- **Building intentions appear strong in BC as the value of building permits issued during the first six months of the year increased 21.8% (*unadjusted*) over the same period in 2006.** Vancouver Island/Coast (+38.7%), Cariboo (+35.7%), Mainland/Southwest (+22.2%) and Thompson-Okanagan (+14.0%) all posted significant increases. Planned spending increased 6.5% in Nechako, but was down in Northeast (-20.3%), North Coast (-4.0%) and Kootenay (-3.5%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada and BC Stats*

- **The price of new housing in BC's two largest cities rose in June.** Home builders in Victoria saw prices increase only 0.5% (*unadjusted*), while in Vancouver the average cost for a new home rose 9.6% over the same month in 2006. Although building values in Victoria were considerably lower (-6.8%) than a year earlier, an increase in land prices (+12.8%) offset the decline. In Vancouver, the increase in the price of a new house (+12.5%) far surpassed the increase in the price of land (+3.9%).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

Room Revenues

- **Room revenues in the province were flat in April as small gains made by hotels (+0.8%) were balanced out by slight losses by both motels (-0.3%) and other accommodation types (-1.0%).** Region by region, slight increases in revenues in Northeast (+2.3%), Mainland/Southwest (+0.5%) and Vancouver Island/Coast (+0.4%) were able to offset declining revenues in North Coast (-0.8%), Thompson-Okanagan (-0.8%), Nechako (-2.0%), Kootenay (-2.6%) and Cariboo (-5.7%).

Data Source: BC Stats

Motion Picture Theatres

- **British Columbia's motion picture theatres sold over 14 million tickets in 2005.** Of the $164 million generated in revenue at theatres in BC, 67% came from ticket sales while 28% was from customer expenditures on food and beverages. Amongst the most avid movie-goers in Canada, British Columbians went to the movies an average of 3.6 times in 2005. Nationally, large theatre chains continue to dominate the motion picture industry. Business at the top five chain-operated theatre companies accounted nearly 80% of all revenue generated in the industry. *Data Source: SC, Catalogue 87F0009*

Radio Broadcasting

- **The 98 private radio broadcasters in BC and the Territories saw profits slip 0.7% in 2006 following a particularly profitable 2005.** While sales of air time to generate advertising revenue increased 4.2%, operating expenses rose 5.2%.

  Nationally, the greatest profit margins were garnered by English-language radio stations (+22.0%), followed by French-language (+11.5%) and ethnic (+8.3%) stations. Radio stations that operate on the FM radio band enjoyed a substantially higher profit margin (24.2%) than AM stations (5.5%).

Data Source: SC, Catalogue 56-208-XIE

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Infoline Report

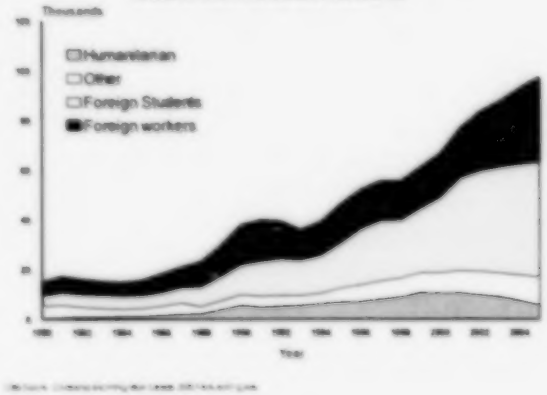
Contact Dave O'Neil
(250) 387-0335
Originally published in
Migration Highlights Issue 07-1

British Columbia's Non-Permanent Resident Population

International migration is made up of five different components: immigrants; non-permanent residents; emigrants; returning emigrants and; those temporarily abroad. This special feature article discusses information on Canada and British Columbia's non-permanent resident population released by Citizenship and Immigrant Canada in their *2005 Facts and Figures* publication.

Non-permanent residents are individuals who are residing within Canada under one of several visas or permits. Temporary workers, foreign students, permit or minister's permit holders and those residing here for humanitarian reasons, are all counted as part of the non-permanent resident population. Many of these individuals eventually apply for and obtain permanent residency status.

Foreign Students account for a larger share of the stock of Non-Permanent Residents



The stock, or total number of persons residing in BC who are Non-Permanent Residents, has increased over the past twenty-five years. In 1980, 14,885 non-permanent residents resided in British Columbia. Over 36 per cent of these non-permanent residents were classified as temporary workers, while 27.6 per cent were classified as foreign students[1]. By 2005 this total number of non-permanent residents had increased to 97,300 persons. Foreign students now account for 47.5 per cent of this total, while temporary workers account for 34.9 per cent.

In 1980 over 61 per cent of the total foreign worker population was male. By 2005 their share of the total stock had fallen to 48.5 per cent. Females over the same period have increased their share of the overall foreign student population within British Columbia from 44.1 per cent to 48.4 per cent in 2005.

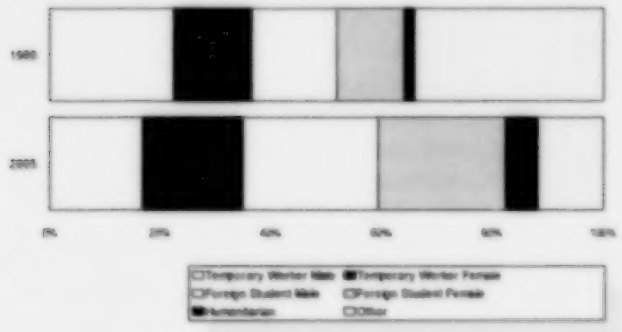
Temporary Workers

Over the past ten years the favoured destinations of temporary workers has shifted[2]. In 1996, the vast majority of temporary workers, (74.5 per cent) stated an intention to reside in Vancouver. By 2005, this percentage had fallen to 61.7 per cent.

Besides Vancouver, the most popular urban areas for temporary workers in B.C. are: Victoria; Kelowna; Abbotsford; Kamloops; Nanaimo and Prince George.

[1] Temporary worker total here includes those with and without work permit. Foreign student total here includes those with and without study permits.
[2] This section discusses statistics for only those temporary workers with a work permit.

Female temporary workers and foreign students have increased their shares of the total N.P.R. population in B.C.



Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada

B.C. Stock of Temporary Workers by Urban Area

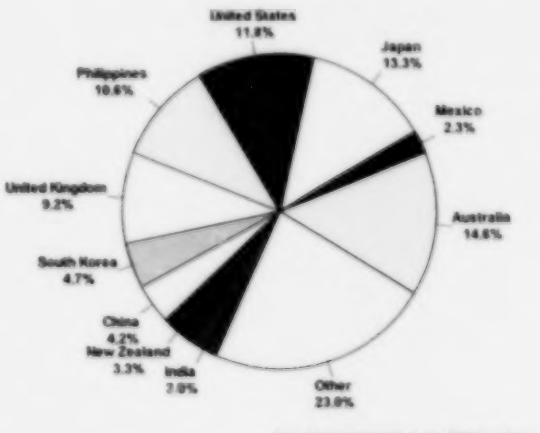
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Vancouver	11,042	13,446	15,149	17,777	19,840
Victoria	253	315	312	408	639
Kelowna	206	196	265	349	357
Abbotsford	95	146	160	194	257
Kamloops	67	100	100	116	145
Nanaimo	53	49	71	79	122
Prince George	44	77	60	106	109
Vernon	40	35	48	47	72
Chilliwack	64	34	49	57	61
Penticton	24	25	22	34	44
Fort St. John	23	25	34	42	42
Cranbrook	16	16	25	34	39
Campbell River	30	31	37	33	39
Powell River	21	16	9	17	32
Prince Rupert	20	20	30	34	32
Williams Lake	19	22	20	20	27
Courtenay	23	29	15	33	26
Duncan	12	28	24	24	23
Quesnel	16	10	10	21	22
Dawson Creek	11	10	8	11	17
Rossland	11	11	13	14	12
Other BC	3,748	4,352	5,442	7,255	10,392
BC Total	15,835	18,946	21,938	26,710	32,359

Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2005 Facts and Figures

The top source country of temporary workers in 2005 was Australia. A total of 4,972 temporary workers residing within British Columbia on December 1st of this year were from this country. Japan and the United States were second and third for the top three source countries for 2005, accounting for 13.3 per cent and 11.8 per cent of total temporary workers each. The Philippines, United Kingdom, South Korea, China, New Zealand and India also account for sizable portions of the total temporary worker population within B.C.

While the temporary worker population from most countries was evenly split between males and females, some countries sent markedly more males or females to Canada in 2005. A total of 90.5 per cent of all Philippine foreign workers in British Columbia were female, while 68.2 per cent of all foreign workers from Japan were female. In 2005, 61 per cent of temporary workers from the Slovak Republic were women, lower than its 1996 high of 92.5 per cent. The temporary worker population from Mexico, the United States, the UK and Ireland were more heavily weighted towards males in 2005. A total of 83.3 per cent of

Australia was the top source country for temporary workers in 2005



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2005 Facts and Figures

workers from Mexico were male while of the US, UK and Ireland populations, 66.2 per cent, 61.4 per cent and 60.1 per cent were male.

Foreign Students

Vancouver was the most popular destination for foreign students[3]. In 2005, 70.8 per cent of the total stock of foreign students resided in Vancouver. Victoria and Nanaimo were also popular urban centres for foreign students to locate to, as well as Abbotsford, Kamloops and Kelowna.

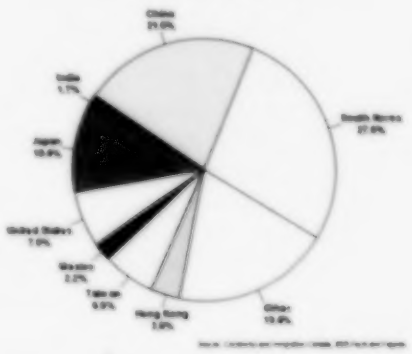
B.C. Stock of Foreign Students by Urban Area

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Vancouver	25,855	27,550	28,859	30,074	31,339
Nanaimo	787	1,092	1,242	1,223	1,254
Victoria	855	959	980	1,017	1,056
Abbotsford	592	761	889	958	985
Kamloops	806	857	880	851	927
Kelowna	401	467	452	482	526
Prince George	160	202	278	311	350
Cranbrook	55	76	98	121	168
Chilliwack	140	132	175	160	186
Duncan	77	95	98	99	103
Fort St. John	31	30	36	83	81
Campbell River	26	39	34	23	65
Vernon	26	14	18	23	44
Courtenay	31	33	15	30	37
Powell River	26	42	36	34	32
Penticton	21	20	27	20	26
Prince Rupert	10	8	11	12	13
Williams Lake	6	7	5	11	11
Port Alberni	20	30	8	13	10
Terrace	16	24	21	10	9
Other BC	3,571	5,867	6,052	6,458	7,053
BC Total	35,471	38,067	40,170	42,004	44,125

Data Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 2005 Facts and Figures

The top source country for foreign students in 2005 was South Korea. In that year 27.6 per cent of all of British Columbia's foreign students were from this country. China and Japan were the second and third top source countries and accounted for 21.6 per cent and 10.4 per cent of the total foreign student population in this year.

South Korea was the top source country for foreign students in 2005



Females and males shared equal weighting in most countries foreign student populations. The foreign student population from Japan, however, was more heavily weighted towards females at 66.7 per cent, while the student population from India was more heavily weighted towards males at 81.3 per cent, in 2005.

[3] In this section statistics for the foreign student population with study permits only are discussed

Infoline

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Issue 07-32

fax transmission information service from BC Stats

Email transmission information service from BC Stats

also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/07	% change on one year ago
BC	4,352.8	1.3
Canada	32,852.8	1.0
GDP and INCOME (Released Apr 25)		
(BC - at market prices)	2006	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	179,701	6.4
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	150,741	3.6
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	34,971	2.3
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	21,984	4.8
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - May	3,500	-2.2
Merchandise Exports - May	2,807	-6.2
Retail Sales - May	4,752	1.7
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on one year ago	12-month avg % change
(all items - Jun 2007)		
BC	1.5	1.8
Vancouver	1.9	2.2
Victoria	0.8	1.4
Canada	2.2	1.8
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Jul '07	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,355	-0.4
Employed - BC	2,258	-0.1
Unemployed - BC	98	-6.9
		Jun '07
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	4.1	4.4
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.0	6.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Aug 8/07	Aug 9/06
Prime Business Rate	6.25	6.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	7.05	6.60
- 5 year	7.24	6.95
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Aug 8/07	Aug 9/06
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.0499	1.1199
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.9536	0.8926
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jul '07	one year ago
BC	744.19	3.2
Canada	754.33	3.4

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Environmental Statistics Portal

A new Environmental Statistics page with links to a variety of data and reports related to different environmental issues has been added to the site. The first issue of a new BC Stats periodical, "Environmental Statistics," can be accessed from this page. It is a reprint of an "Exports" article, with some additional data tables.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/env/env_stat.asp

Regional Employment Projections

BC Stats, with the financial assistance of the Ministry of Advanced Education, developed the Regional Employment Projection Model (REPM), designed to project industrial and occupational employment in regions of the Province of British Columbia. The model projects employment at the Regional District level and then aggregates back up to the College Region for reporting purposes.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lss/repm.asp

Socio-Economic Profiles & Indices

The 2006 edition of these widely-monitored reports provide the most complete and up-to-date basis for measuring and comparing the social and economic dimensions of regions in the province. Released April 4.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/index.asp

Released this week by BC Stats

- Tourism Sector Monitor, July 2007
- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 2nd Quarter 2007
- Labour Force Statistics, July 2007
- Earnings & Employment Trends, July 2007

Next week

- Exports, June 2007

BC Stats, Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services, Box 9410 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9V1
Tel: (250) 387-0327 Fax: (250) 387-0329 Web: www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca E-mail: BC.Stats@gov.bc.ca